

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: PRESS ON ETHIOPIA/US RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT BEING USED BY DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE WHICH HANDLING ALL PRESS QUERIES RE CLOSURE AMERICAN FACILITIES IN ETHIOPIA:

2. QTE AT 4:00 P.M. APRIL 23 IN ADDIS ABABA OUR EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES THAT FIVE US GOVERNMENT FACILITIES WERE TO CEASE OPERATION AND THAT THE PERSONNEL SHOULD BE REPATRIATED TO THE US WITHIN FOUR DAYS. THE FACILITIES INVOLVED ARE THE NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT, THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP IN ADDIS ABABA AND THE US CONSULATE GENERAL AND THE KAGNEW STATION COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IN ASMARA.

3. "WE HAD INTENDED TO CLOSE THE KAGNEW STATION IN ANY CASE, AND HAD INFORMED THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THAT, BECAUSE OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, KAGNEW STATION NO LONGER NEEDED AND THAT WE WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS, AS CALLED FOR IN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT GOVERNING KAGNEW, FOR ITS CLOSURE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1977. WE HAD ALSO ADVISED THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT

THAT WE WERE REDUCING OUR MAAG BY HALF IN COMPLIANCE WITH A CONGRESSIONALLY-MANDATED WORLDWIDE REDUCTION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. " THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THESE ACTIONS UNWARRANTED, PARTICULARLY THE SHORT DEADLINE. A STATE DEPARTMENT WORKING GROUP UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WILLIAM E. SCHAUFELLE, JR. HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF US PERSONNEL, DEPENDENTS AND EQUIPMENT. END QUOTE

5. FOLLOWING IS PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE. SO FAR PRESS HAS BEEN SATISFIED WITH INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ABOVE PRESS STATEMENT, ONLY ADDITIONAL QUESTION BEING NUMBER OF AMERICANS TO BE WITHDRAWN.

6. QTE QUESTION: WHY ARE THE ETHIOPIANS TAKING THIS ACTION?

ANSWER: ETHIOPIA DID NOT CITE ANY REASON IN THEIR NOTES, HOWEVER, THE ETHIOPIAN RADIO BROADCASTS LATER IN THE DAY MADE ATTACKS ON ALLEGED US IMPERIALISM, CLAIMED THAT THE

US WAS SUPPORTING OPPONENTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
AND THAT THE US HAD CUT OFF ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTRY.

THE US HAS SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH
COULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE ETHIOPIANS AS SUPPORT FOR
OPPONENTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERN-
MENT. SINCE THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE
COUNTRY IN 1974 THE US HAS MAINTAINED ITS DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA AND SOUGHT
TO CONTINUE THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERA-
TION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, NEW MAP GRANT MILITARY
MATERIEL ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA WAS TERMINATED IN MARCH.
HOWEVER, OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP,
AND OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, HAVE CONTINUED.

7. QTE QUESTION: IS THERE ANY BASIS TO REPORT THAT
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ETHIOPIAN ACTION WAS BECAUSE THE US HAS FAILED TO ACT ON
A DOLS 47 MILLION AMMUNITION REQUEST?

ANSWER: WHILE WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE
ETHIOPIAN DECISION IS LINKED TO THAT REQUEST, WE CURRENTLY
ARE STUDYING A MAJOR AMMUNITION REQUEST FROM ETHIOPIA IN
CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S OVERALL REVIEW OF
ARMS SALES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

8. QTE QUESTION: WILL THE US SELL THE AMMUNITION OR ARMS
TO ETHIOPIA IN VIEW OF THE RECENT ETHIOPIAN ACTIONS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE ALL ASPECTS OF OUR ARMS SUPPLY RELA-
TIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW.

9. QTE QUESTION: HOW MANY AMERICANS WILL BE WITHDRAWN?

ANSWER: APPROXIMATELY 350. END QUOTE
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Message Attributes

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